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PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT TO TERMITE INSPECTION REPORTS

By
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PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT TO TERMITE INSPECTION REPORTS

By
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Donald DeLeon, Associate Entomologist

The following photographs, taken at the request of C. B. Eaton, Forest Insect Laboratory, Berkeley, Calif., by Lt. A. H. Trumbull, Office of the Constructing Quartermaster, Fort Mason, Calif., show actual construction features of temporary mobilization buildings erected at Army posts in San Francisco and vicinity.

For the most part, these pictures illustrate building details that are likely to be a source of trouble from termite attacks. Measures by which inadequate construction features can be corrected so as to give proper protection are outlined for each building detail shown.

A more comprehensive outline of measures for the prevention of termite damage, can be found in Circular 2, Supplement A, TERMITES, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture in the Series "Insects in Relation to National Defense." Copies of this bulletin are available at the address given above.

Figure 1. The wooden porch and steps provide direct ground to building contact by means of which termites can infest the building without being seen. The value of shields is completely negated by this type of construction. Porches and steps should be built on concrete footings so that the wood is clear of the ground by at least 6 inches.

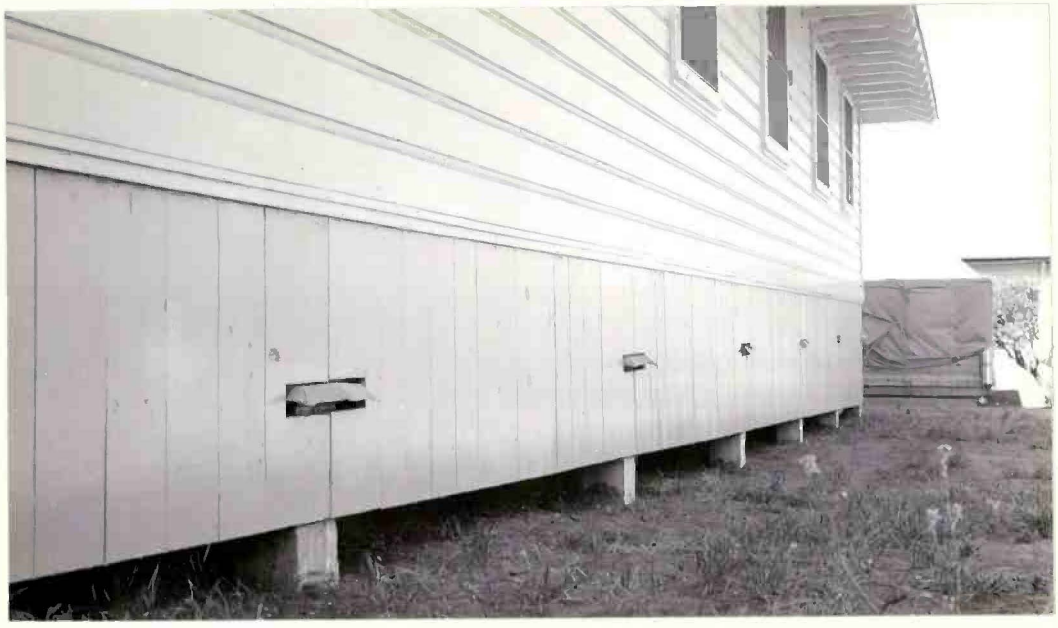
Figure 2. Here both wood steps and skirting provide means for concealed access by termites to building. Skirting installed in this manner prevents proper subfloor ventilation, and thus creates conditions favorable for termite infestation and decay of framing timbers. The value of shields is completely negated by this type of construction. The conditions illustrated can be corrected by setting the steps away from the building by 1½" to 2", and cutting off the skirting so that it clears the ground by 6 inches.

Figure 3. Landscape work performed after completion of this building resulted in soil being brought up over the bottom of the skirting. This condition should be corrected by cutting off the bottom of the skirting so that it clears the ground level by at least 6 inches.

Figure 4. Soil around this building partially covers the termite shield and is in contact with the bottom of the siding, making possible concealed entrance of termites to the building. The final grade should be lowered so that the siding is clear of the ground by at least 6 inches. Shields covered in this manner are useless in preventing termites from entering a building.

Figure 5. Loose soil has blown up against this building covering termite shields, skirting, and part of siding and cutting off air circulation beneath the building. To prevent hidden termite entrance to this building, the grade level should be lowered to 6 inches below the bottom of the siding and should be kept at this level.

Figure 6. Form boards left in the ground around concrete footings are a potential source of termite infestation. The form boards around this pier were infested within three months after construction was completed. Grade stakes, shavings, and wood debris should be removed and burned rather than be left in the soil.



A

B

Figure 7. Good clearance between the ground and the skirting was provided in constructing the buildings illustrated. Termite shields are unnecessary in both cases because of adequate clearance and ventilation, since termites as a rule do not extent their tubes up over well ventilated and exposed piers. In A, any possible value the shields might have has been completely negated by extending the skirting below the shields against the piers. In B, the shields have been properly installed and would prevent termite damage.

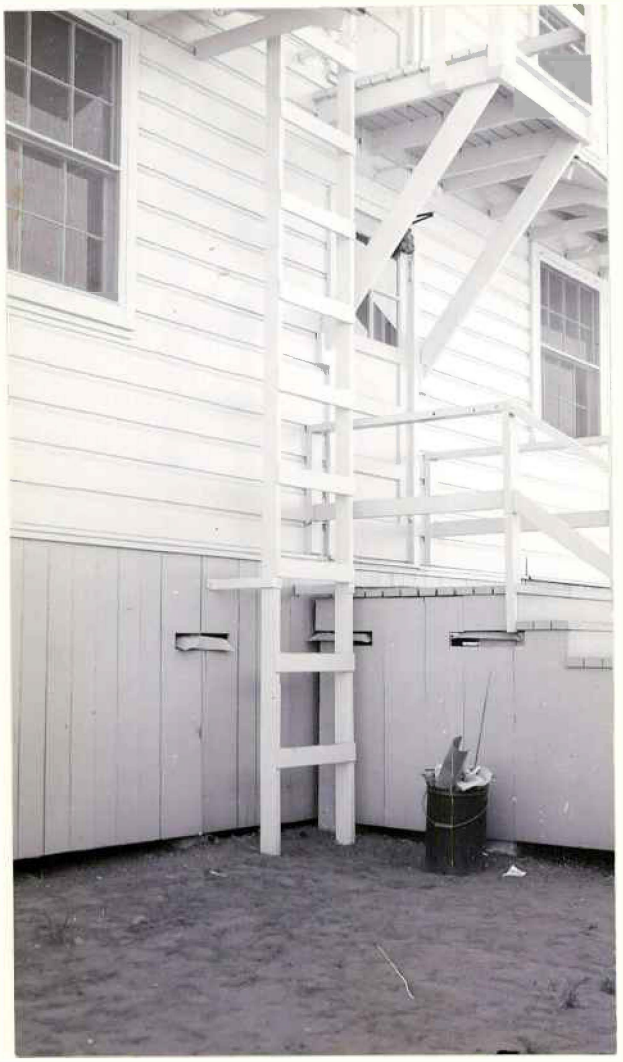


Figure 8. Fire ladder provides a direct ground to building contact by means of which termites can infest building without being seen. This should be corrected either by setting the ladder on a concrete footing 6 inches high, or else by cutting off the bottom of the ladder so that it clears the ground by an equal distance.

Figure 9. Setting the entrance platform away from the building is one means of preventing hidden entrance of termites to the building through wood. In the case shown above, the effectiveness of this measure is partially nullified by the handrail, which is tied in to the side of the building.